

PAPERS READ

BEFORE THE

LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1912.

"History herself, as seen in her own workshop."

A CLUSTER OF ROSES
POETICAL TRIBUTES TO THE CONESTOGA RIVER
LOCAL ITEMS FROM AN OLD GAZETTE
MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING

VOL. XVI. NO. 4.

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A CLUSTER OF ROSES.

Were any of you to take a morning stroll, say to the banks of the little river which winds its tortuous way through the fruitful lands of this, our county, you might go with some definite object in view. It might be your intention to seek the uncertain site of Stephen Atkinson's fulling mill, to visit Rockford, the once beautiful home of Edward Hand, to climb to the summit of Indian Hill, or to cross the bridge with its thrice three arches, which Lloyd Mifflin claims to be in number like the Muses of mythology. Much is there of interest along this peaceful stream of ours, and as yet the story of the Conestoga remains to be written.

But, whatever the chief intent may be, at almost any moment something of unexpected interest may present itself. It may be a joyous, thrilling, bird-song which falls upon your ear; some gayly-hued butterfly which flits across your path some fair, wild flower which meets your eye, and you pluck it, desiring to share the pleasure it gives you with your friends. So it is with the treasures which lie hidden in our records. Like the gold in General Sutton's land, they await their discoverer. And so it was that, delving amid the old deeds at the Court House, in search of other matters, this cluster of roses was found,

and, in the hope that they may please you as much as they did me, they are laid before you this evening. So much by way of preamble.

Nearly two centuries ago, or, to be strictly accurate, 177 years ago, there lived a man in England named John Page. Of him little is known, beyond his name. He was "of Austin Pryors," or "Friars," which, in olden times, had been "a monastery of the Friars Eremite of St. Augustine, situated on the north side of Broad street, Old London, and founded by Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, in 1253 A. D." He is only a name to us, leaving but a passing trace upon our records.

In the Recorder's office, Book B, page 16: To this "John Page, of Austin Pryors, London," on September 17, 1735, there was granted by "John, Thomas and Richard Penn, Esqs., true and absolute Proprietaries and Governours in chief of the province of Pennsylvania, a certain Tract of Land situated on Tulpehocken creek of 5,165 acres, who by their Patent did erect it into a Manor, and named it the Manor of Plumton."

It has been suggested that this name was given on account of the many wild plum trees which grew within the borders of this manor. The deed continues: "Giving all rights save three full and 1-5 parts of all royall mines," "and do give to the said John Page, his heirs and assigns, to erect and constitute within the said Manor a Court Baron with all things whichsoever to a Court Baron do belong, and generally to receive, do, and use all things which to the view of Frank pledge do belong, and to receive all fines, Amorciaments and profits which to a Court Baron do be-

long"* "To be holden by the said John Page and his successors of the said Proprietaries of the Seignory of Winsor in free and common Soccage by Fealty only in Lieu of all other services, yielding and paying to the said Proprietaries, their heirs and successors, one Red Rose on the 24th day of June in every year forever." Patent Book A, vol. 7, p. 264, etc. Philadelphia.

Meantime John Page, gentleman, had, on February 17, 1736, empowered William Allen, William Webb, of Chester county, and Samuel Powell, Jr., merchant of Philadelphia, his attorneys, to act for him, and to sell portions of the manor at the best price to be obtained. Accordingly (B.16) on December 5, 1739, to "Erasmus Buggamier, of the Manor of Plumton," a tract of 216 acres, 45 perches, was sold for £86 10s 6p, subject to the payment every year to John Page, on the 23d of June, of one red rose. This deed was acknowledged before and recorded by Conrad Weiser, Justice of the Peace, July 10, 1742. (B. 21) 120 acres, 58 perches, were sold to George Unrew, subject to the same red rose rental. December 4, 1739. (B. 22) December 4, 1739, 275 acres, for £110 to Frederick Sheffer, and same rental; (B. 37) 52 acres for £21 1s to Conrad Weiser, same date, and same yearly rose rental.

(B.32) 178 acres to Michael Sheffer for £71; (B. 201) 141 acres 146 perches for £56 15s, to Michael Miller and Maria Catharine, his wife, (B. 330) 242 acres for £96 16s to Chris-

*A Court Baron was a Court composed of the tenants of each lord of a manor. It might decide on all real actions arising within the manor, and on personal actions below the value of two pounds, but subject to review by the Court at Westminster.—Chambers' Encyclopaedia.

tian Ruffty; (B. 331), parts to be granted to Peter Feake and Maria Cobelsin; (B. 565) 370 acres for £240, to Conrad Weiser, and in each and every case subject to the payment, "every year and forever," to John Page, Gentleman, the rental of one red rose on the 23d of each June.

What, perhaps, is most interesting is the fact that this precedes by thirty-five years Baron Stiegel's annual rent from Zion Church at Manheim, it having been built in 1779, and this probably is the first instance of such a rental being asked for in Lancaster county.

B. 625, December 5, 1739, recorded March 4, 1748, 120 acres were sold to Peter Feake for the same rental. He had water rights on "Tulpehocken Crook" for an "Oyl Mill," and, B. 625, June first, 1743, John Dieter and Catharine, his wife, sell to the same Peter Feake for £30 land granted to John Dieter by John Page, 263 acres. Feake to pay the same rental of one red rose, but this time on the 11th of each June. Attested by Conrad Weiser and recorded by Benjamin Longenecker.

With this last sale the "Manor of Plumton" or Plumtown, disappeared from our annals. Its later history may possibly be found in that of Berks county. But at the time of which this paper treats the land in question belonged to our own county. Berks was established by act of General Assembly on March 11, 1752. Its western part was taken from Lancaster. It is rather curious that in the list of Pennsylvania manors contained in the archives, there is no mention of Plumton Manor, and the only records concerning it seem to be those in existence in our own Court House.

In 1735 "Ruscombe Manor" was set

aside for the Proprietaries, containing 10,000 acres. Later on, after Berks county was formed, "Cow Pasture Manor," of 3,063 acres, was set aside for them, in 1763, and two years later, in 1765, "Tulpehocken Manor" of 7,510 acres, was granted to Richard Penn. Volume 4, Penn. Archives, 3d series, pp. 3, 4 and 5.

In consideration of the fact that it was always "a red rose" which constituted the rental to be paid, we cannot but wonder what prompted the selection of that particular flower. This much is certain: that, so far as we are concerned, the custom originated in Europe. Could it be possible that the name of our county suggested it, and caused the transplantation of the Red Rose of Lancaster to our borders? And, in our sister and daughter county of York, would the "White Rose" have played the same part? 'Tis only a fancy, yet history enfolds so much of beauty and romance that the idea may merit a passing notice; and with that thought bring to a close the brief paper in which it has been my pleasure and privilege to lay before you a heretofore ungathered cluster of red roses.

Poetical Tributes to the Conestoga River.

Mr. F. R. Diffenderffer's paper, "A Plea for the Conestoga River," read before the Lancaster County Historical Society at the January meeting, seems not only to have struck a popular chord in public sentiment, but also to have called forth several poetical tributes of unusual merit in honor of our beautiful river. At the April meeting of the Executive Committee, the Historical Society's attention was called to these poems, whereupon it was, on motion, decided to place them on permanent record by giving them a place in the regular proceedings of the Society. They are accordingly herewith presented:

To the Conestoga River, near Lancaster, in June.

Within the shadow which the foliage throws
The drowsing cattle by the waters dream;
The white arms of the trees above thee gleam,
And on thy slopes the ripening harvest glows;
From meadows of the hay the fragrance blows
Sweeter than all Arabia!....What a theme
For revery thou art, O pastoral stream,
Idyllic in thy beauty and repose!

Nine arches hath thy Bridge of classic mould—
One for each Muse—clear-mirrored on thy breast;
Amid this quiet of the evening hours
Tranquil thou flowest toward yon waste of gold,
Where, shadowed 'gainst the fulgence of the West,
The stately College lifts her clustered towers.

Suggested by a paper on the Conestoga "River," read before the Lancaster County Historical Society, January 5, 1912, by F. R. Diffenderffer, Litt.D.

The Conestoga River.

Air—"Afton Water."

Let writers exalt in their prose and their rhymes
The classical rivers of other famed climes,
Although I may often submit to their thrall
My own Conestoga is dearer than all.

Serene Conestoga, since first as a child
I looked on thy waters so gentle and mild
They roused in my fancy such love and such lore
As never can weaken till I am no more.

My own Conestoga, my roving afar
Has only more taught me how lovely you are;
Of all the grand rivers revealed to my gaze
There is not another deserving your praise.

Well-loved Conestoga, both guardian and guide,
Why should not I prize you all rivers beside?
You found me my true love, and happy were we
While often we wandered communing with thee.

Flow on, Conestoga, unvex'd through thy course
With Beauty around thee from outlet to source;
May Plenty her smiles on your people increase
Forever rejoicing in Progress and Peace.

Alas, Conestoga, how brief is our day:
We come—and we live—and we soon pass away;
But you, gentle river, forever remain,
The queen of the county secure in your reign.

Farewell, Conestoga, so dear to my heart,
Tho' on my last journey I soon must depart
It cheers me to know that your watch you will keep
Around where I rest in my measureless sleep.

JAMES D. LAW.

"Clovernook," Roxboro,
Philadelphia, Pa.,
February 15, 1912.

Local Items from an Old Gazette.

Two items of local interest were found recently in the Pennsylvania Gazette of 1775. The first relates to Manheim, a place we always associate with the "Red Rose" question, and yet the story of Stiegel's glass manufactory, though not so universally known, is quite as interesting and important. This extract speaks for itself:

"Lancaster, October 21, 1775.

"Notice is hereby given to all persons who have lots in arrears of groundrent for the same, that they pay off and discharge the same on the 10th and 11th days of November next, otherwise they may expect that their lots will be seized by the proprietors of said town. Attendance will be given on the same days, at the house of Jerome Heintzelman, in said town, by the subscribers. They have like-wise for sale, several houses and lots in said town; any person or persons inclining to purchase any of the said houses or lots, may be informed by the terms, by applying as aforesaid. And whereas the subscribers do now carry on the Glass Manufactory in said town, and now have a large quantity of green glass upon hands, they flatter themselves that the gentlemen, merchants, and shopkeepers will favor them with their custom.

"William Bosman, Michael Deffenderfer, Paul Zantzinger, Casper Singer, Frederick Kubn.

"N. B. They will likewise pay Two-pence per pound for broken flint, and a Half-penny per pound for broken green-glass delivered at the Manufactory."

The second item, relating to the Juliana Library, may be of some interest, as there is so little known on that subject.

"Lancaster, September 3, 1775.

"The members of the Juliana Library Company in the Borough of Lancaster, are desired to meet at their Library Room, in the Borough aforesaid, on Friday, the 15th Day of September instant, at three o'Clock in the Afternoon of the same Day, to choose Directors, a Treasurer, and a Librarian, for the Year ensuing, and to make their annual Payments."

"WILLIAM ATLEE, Secretary."

Minutes of April Meeting.

Lancaster, Pa., April 5, 1912.

The regular monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Historical Society was held this evening in the society's room. Mr. F. R. Diffenderffer presided in the absence of the president, Mr. Steinman.

Miss Bausman, the librarian, reported the following donations:

Bound Volumes (17)—“The Spanish Settlements Within the Present Limits of the United States” (1513-1561); 2d volume “The Spanish Settlements Within the Present Limits of the United States—Florida” (1562-1574), by Woodbury Lowery, and presented by the Duchess of Arcos (Virginia Woodbury Lowery Brunetti), sister of the author; 15 volumes from the State Library, which include, besides various reports of the different departments, Laws of Pennsylvania, 1911; School Laws of Pennsylvania, 1911; History of the 61st Regiment, Penna. Volunteers; History of the 52d Regiment, Penna. Volunteers (Luzerne Regiment); History of the 17th Regiment, Penna. Volunteers (Cavalry); History of the 22d Regiment, Penna. Volunteers (Cavalry) and Ringgold Battalion; Colloquial Phrases (Lancaster Imprint) from Dr. R. K. Buehrle.

Magazines and Pamphlets—Proceedings of the Wyoming Historical and Geological Society, two volumes, from the Society; American Catholic Historical Society Records; American Catholic Historical Researches;

The Penn-Germania; Annals of Iowa; Linden Hall Echo (2 numbers); Annual Report of Susquehanna County Historical Society; Bulletins of New York Public Library; Bulletins of Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh; Bulletins of Public Library, Grand Rapids; lot of miscellaneous pamphlets from State Library; pamphlet of Lebanon County Historical Society, containing paper on "Foreign Wars in the United States," by Captain H. M. M. Richards; six almanacs from Miss Lillian M. Roy; bronze replica of the gold medal which was recently presented to Hon. W. U. Hensel by his friends, from Redmond Conyngham, Esq.; sketch of the home in Charleston, S. C., of Dr. David Ramsay, from John Bennett; large number of pamphlets of the Society's own Proceedings from friends; small relic of the battleship Maine, from Mrs. M. N. Robinson.

The usual vote of thanks was tendered the donors.

The following persons were, on motion, elected to membership: George S. Franklin, George H. Rothermel, and C. A. Sauber, this city; J. G. Rush, West Willow; Dr. J. M. Baum, Ephrata, and M. G. Weaver, New Holland. The name of B. Cookman Dunkle, of McCall's Ferry, was proposed for membership.

Under the head of new business Miss Bausman read the following letter:

No. 37 Legare Street,
Charleston, S. C.,
March 23d, 1912.

Miss Lottie M. Bausman, Librarian,
Lancaster Historical Society, Lancaster, Penn.

My dear Miss Bausman: I have for some time past been endeavoring to obtain a negative of the house in

this city formerly occupied by Dr. David Ramsay, in Broad street; but have never had one to please me. One greatest objection being alterations in the house made during the past few years, which materially alter the face of the building. I concluded, therefore, rather than to wait on uncertainty, to make a sketch of the building as it was before repaired and altered, as it was when occupied as a residence by Dr. Ramsay and his daughters, as it was when occupied by the officers of the British army in 1780-3, and as it was when Dr. Ramsay's daughters conducted their famous "Dame School" within its old walls. Having done so, and believing that the drawing gives a very fair presentation of the old house as it must have been in Dr. David Ramsay's day, I forward this sketch to the Lancaster County Historical Society, by mail, to-day, hoping that it may find a place in the collections of that organization, whose monthly reports of proceedings, and research, I read with very genuine interest. Dr. Ramsay, I may add, was slain within a short bow-shot, in plain sight of this house, by the walls of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, on the opposite side of the street, toward the eastern end of Broad street—Dr. Ramsay's residence standing on the north side of the street, just three doors west of State House Square, upon which stood South Carolina's House of Assembly in Provincial times, afterward the State House, long since removed to give way to a more commodious Court-House for Charleston County. It was in State House court-square Langdon Cheves had his law office when a young practitioner in Charleston, immediately around the corner from the Ramsay residence, and there he achieved sud-

den and brilliant success, exceeding in his annual income the earning capacity of even the most eminent men who there practiced before him in the Province and State. It would give me the greatest pleasure, if any member of the Lancaster County Historical Society, having such a kodak negative, would be so kind as to enable me to obtain a picture of Langdon Cheves' residence near Lancaster, "Abbeville."

Trusting my sketch will reach your hands intact, and with continued great interest in your Society's work, permit me to remain,

Very truly yours,

JOHN BENNETT.

The sketch of the Ramsay house will prove a most valuable addition to the society's collection, and a special vote of thanks was extended the donor. The picture is the work of Mr. Bennett, and it shows the true artistic attention to detail.

A letter from D. R. Long, chairman of the memorial committee of the Strasburg High School Alumni Association, was read. It conveyed to the society an invitation to participate in the exercises incident to the unveiling of a tablet to mark the birthplace in Strasburg of Thomas H. Burrows. The invitation was accepted, and, on motion, the following committee was appointed to attend the unveiling exercises: Mrs. A. K. Hostetter, Miss Martha Bowman, Miss Lottie M. Bausman, D. B. Landis and H. Frank Eshleman, Esq.

The paper of the evening was submitted by Mrs. M. N. Robinson, who had as her subject "A Cluster of Roses." It was while delving through records at the Court House that she unearthed this historic "find"—a deed, dated just 177 years ago, which

conveyed from the Penns to one John Page a tract of land along the "Tulpehoccon" creek, in what was then Lancaster county, and on this tract was erected the "Manor of Plumton." Portions of this land were sold from time to time subject to the payment "every year to John Page on the 23d of June of one red rose." These deeds antedate by thirty-five years Baron Stiegel's annual rental from Zion Church, at Manheim, and show probably the first instance of such a rental being asked for in Lancaster county. Mrs. Robinson wove around the old deeds a most interesting narrative that had the added value of being on a subject never before touched by our historians.

A vote of thanks was extended the essayist.

Adjourned.

